

APPOINTMENT OF THE NEXT SECRETARY GENERAL

MEETING OF HEADS OF DELEGATION (HOD)

Tuesday, 8 November 2005

Dean's report on the second stage of consultations

The purpose of this meeting is to allow me and my colleagues in this exercise – Ambassador Jocelyne Bourgon (Canada) and Ambassador Peter Brückner (Denmark), acting as Facilitators – to report to the membership on the outcome of the second stage of consultations regarding the selection and appointment of the next Secretary-General of the OECD.

The appointment process started on March 30th, 2005 with an invitation to Member countries to nominate candidates until July 15th 2005, based on the common understanding by heads of Delegations (HOD) of March 24, 2005 on the modalities for the selection of the next Secretary-General (including the benchmarks for evaluating candidates).

The response to that invitation was very successful and allowed Member countries a choice among six outstanding candidates. The high stature of the candidates has been confirmed by the Hearings HOD conducted on October 3rd and 4th and we would like to reiterate once again our high appreciation to the six Member countries which have proposed these candidates.

The Procedures agreed by HOD on September 9th, 2005 mandates the Dean and the two facilitators to proceed through a process of consultations with a view to narrow the field of candidates and ultimately to arrive at a consensus on the choice of the new Secretary-General. For the second stage of consultation Mr. Marek Belka, Mr. Angel Gurría and Ms. Sawako Takeuchi (in alphabetic order) remained in the selection and member countries were asked to indicate to us the two candidates out of the three they appraise as best suited to successfully lead the OECD in the coming years and to rank these two in order of preferences.

The consultations we have held have been conducted again on a strictly confidential basis, and I and both facilitators – and only we – have been present at all the interviews.

As during the first stage of the consultations many participants in the process stressed how difficult it was for their governments to decide on their preferences in view of the fact that the candidates presented excellent credentials and comparative advantages and fulfilled the basic requirements for the post.

The first criterion we considered in the assessment of support for the candidates is the number of countries which expressed a first and second preference for a candidate. The second criterion we looked at was the breadth of support across the entire OECD membership.

Based on that assessment we came to the conclusion that Mr. Marek Belka and Mr. Angel Gurría (in alphabetical order) received the highest level of support from Members.

Ms. Sawako Takeuchi who received a constant honourable level of support has decided to withdraw her candidature in order to facilitate the building of a final consensus. I would like to commend her and the country she represents for this dignified attitude and the high regard for the multilateral cooperation and the spirit on which it is based. Ms. Takeuchi enriched us with her very clear and articulate views on the future role, priorities and challenges for our organization and thus contributed very usefully to our reform discussions. We sincerely thank her for the significant contribution she made through her candidature to the prestige and image of the OECD.

We propose to hold the third stage of consultations during the week of 21 November 2005 based on the two remaining candidates: Mr. Marek Belka and Mr. Angel Gurría. This time we will ask you to give us just your preference for one of the two candidates. The information we received from Members in the second round of consultations will not be used in the third round. We are inviting you to meet with us according to a schedule which the Secretariat will establish.

Copies of this statement will be made available to delegations and to media through the OECD website. Let me thank all of you – and in particular the colleagues from member countries with candidates - for the excellent cooperation in this process. My particular thanks go again to my two facilitators for their precious support.